

September 20, 2010

Low Interest Loan will allow for Dam Repairs and Construction of New Water Filtration Plant

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced that the Village of Ilion has received a \$6,267,000 low interest federal loan through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Bill) to construct a water filtration plant and make needed dam improvements.

"Access to clean drinking water is a right and a necessity," **said Arcuri**. "But many of our rural communities simply do not have access to the funding necessary to make desperately needed improvements to their aging water infrastructure. This is a great example of how the Recovery Bill is helping to rebuild our region by investing millions of dollars to help a community like Ilion ensure residents have access to safe, clean drinking water."

The Village of Ilion initially received a project funding estimate, called a preliminary eligibility determination (PED), issued by USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program. However, because applications for Recovery Bill funds greatly exceeded the total amount of funds available, the Ilion project and several others had been informed that funds were unlikely to be available this year.

On June 24, 2010 Arcuri hosted a meeting with officials at USDA Rural Development to inform communities, like Ilion, about Recovery Bill project eligibility and the funding process going forward. At this meeting, USDA agreed to reevaluate a number of unfunded projects and prioritize them for any remaining Recovery Bill funds.

The funding will be used to make needed repairs to the storage dam including, flattening the main dam downstream slope using fill. The northern embankment repairs will include

constructing a new embankment along the inside of the inside embankment. Additionally, funding will be used to construct a new filtration plant, which will house new sand filters and DE filters along with new UV disinfection units.

This Recovery Bill funding was administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Developments Water and Environmental Program, which provides loans and grants to ensure that necessary investments are made in water and wastewater infrastructure to deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment in rural areas.

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